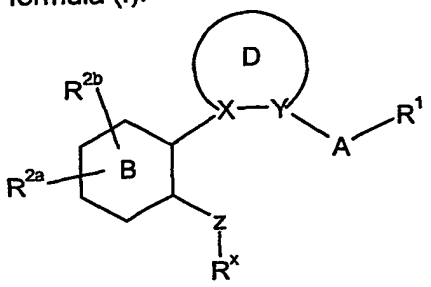
CLAIMS

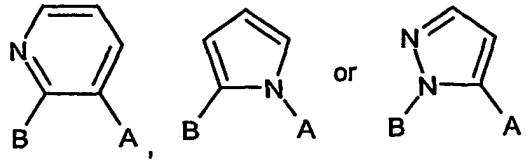
1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

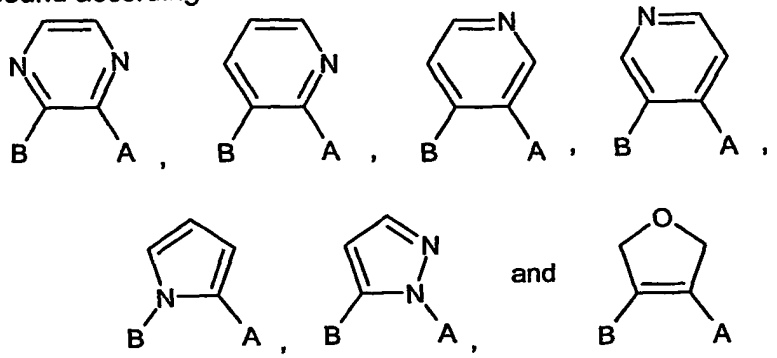
wherein:
A represents an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;
B represents a phenyl or pyridyl ring;
D represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from N and C;
Z represents O, S, SO, or SO_2;
R^1 represents CO_2H, CN, $CONR^5R^6$, CH_2CO_2H, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $NR^5CONR^5R^6$, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;
R^{2a} and R^{2b} each independently represents hydrogen, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO_2alkyl, SR^5, NO_2, optionally substituted aryl, $CONR^5R^6$ or optionally substituted heteroaryl;
R^x represents optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally substituted by a group independently selected from NR^4, O and SO_n, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; optionally substituted alkenyl; or optionally substituted alkynyl: or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-aryl;
R^4 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;
R^5 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;
R^6 represents hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO_2aryl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^baryl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^bheteroaryl or COR^7;
R^7 represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;
Q^a and Q^b are each independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3;
wherein when A is a 6-membered ring the R^1 substituent and the D ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring

or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R^1 substituent and the D ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other;
and derivatives thereof;
provided that D is not imidazolyl, thienyl,



wherein A and B are as hereinbefore defined.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is selected from



all of which may be optionally substituted.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein A in is selected from pyridyl or optionally substituted phenyl.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein R^1 is CO_2H.

5. A compound selected from:

3-{1-[2-(benzyloxy)-phenyl]-5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{1-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{1-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-bromo-phenyl]-5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{5-[2-(benzyloxy)-phenyl]-1H-pyrazol-1-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{5-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-1H-pyrazol-1-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-pyrazin-2-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{4-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-furan-3-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-furan-4-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{4-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-pyridin-3-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-pyridin-2-yl}-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-5-(acetylamino)-benzoic acid;

3-{3-[2-(4-fluoro-benzyloxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-5-(acetylamino)-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(2,4-difluoro-benzyloxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-5-(acetylamino)-benzoic acid;
3-{3-[2-(benzyloxy)-phenyl]-pyridin-4-yl}-5-(acetylamino)-benzoic acid; and
6-{1-[2-(benzyloxy)-5-chloro-phenyl]-5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid; and derivatives thereof.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof together with a pharmaceutical carrier and/or excipient.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors.

9. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a pain, inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

11. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

12. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors.

13. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as a pain, inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain.